

Worley. Dec. 5. 1842.

My dear Sir I have a recollection of Mrs de
Stael, who was while in England a good
deal at my father's house with her squire
Macintyre. I never saw Niagara, but
her conversation struck me as well like
the falls at Schaffhausen than any thing I
have seen. In writing she was I think apt
to get beyond her depth. She was I doubt a
shallow philosopher, & I do not think her
serious writings would command much attention
if they appeared now for the first time, but
she was I believe a genius of a high order,
simple as a child in the ways of the world
& thoroughly good natured. Her fate was
certainly like Johnsons in a different
style, conversational eloquence, & a Burnspote

who despised good women a bad, & hated
clever ones, knew well that when he excluded
her from the salons of Paris he had full &
complete vengeance for her refusal to sacrifice
her principles to his authority. Banishment from
London to Johnson would have been in like
manner equivalent to transportation to ordinary
men. Take her altogether I think she, Sappho,
if Sappho wrote the ode, & Mrs Somerville
are the three most eminent women who have
left record of their talents. An Irish man
showing two pistols to a friend of mine, said
this is the one which killed the Earl of
Meath, but for my own private fighting I
prefer the other. For my own private use
I would give all three for Miss Austen.
I am speaking of literary women, so of course
can say nothing of Lady Sale, but if she
really wrote the letter beginning "advance
pott," attributed to her she would run
Sappho & her solitary fragment hard.
I met with Mrs Somerville in Italy. I never
was more struck with the cordiality &
amicability which I observe in her usually.

accompany the highest order of talent - a genius,
at least I have met with no exception.

Perham

Gunnepark

Hegerton

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Low Ellsmere



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